

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, & BURGESSES OF THE BOROUGH OF GLASTONBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1950.

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Mr Mayor, Aldermen, & Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1950. This is an interim report as instructed by Circular 170/47, and abbreviated in accordance with the directions of Circular 112/50.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S .

POPULATION:- Registrar General's Estimate: 5,266

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	Legitimate	44	31	75	<u>Live Birth Rate.</u> Per 1,000 of the estimated resident Population: 15.19
	Illegitimate	4	1	5	
		48	32	80	

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	Legitimate	0	0	0
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		0	0	0

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
<u>DEATHS.</u>	34	38	72	<u>Death Rate per 1,000</u> of the estimates resident population: 13.67

Rates for England & Wales per 1,000 population:-
Birth Rate: 16.1 Death Rate: 11.6

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES 0
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE. 1
Rate per 1,000 Live Births: 12.49
Rate for England & Wales per 1,000 Live Births: 29.8

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS):-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Cases</u> <u>Notified.</u>	<u>Cases</u> <u>Admitted to</u> <u>Isolation</u> <u>Hospital.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>DEATHS.</u>
Small Pox.....	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	1	0	0
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (incl.Paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Measles.....	5	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	17	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.....	0	0	0
Dysentery.....	0	0	0
Malaria.....	0	0	0
Pneumonia.....	0	0	2
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	2	2	0
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	0	0	0
Other diseases notifiable locally e.g. Erysipelas.....	1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Year 1950. All ages.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Year 1950. All ages.	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		<u>TOTALS.</u>			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.		F.	
Total cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at end of 1949.....	12	8	0	3	12		11	
Total on Register at end of 1950.....	11	8	0	4	11		12	

WATER SUPPLY.

Practically the whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied from the Council's public mains, the figures being as follows:-

Laid on direct to houses...	1,539
Water fetched from distant standpipe...	2
	<u>1,541</u>
Houses (including isolated farms) having only a private well supply. ...	<u>12</u>
Total Dwellings in Borough. ...	<u>1,553</u>
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Sufficiency. An adequate supply was available throughout the year and it was not necessary to impose restrictions upon use.

Quality. The supply is hard. Galvanised iron service pipes are used and no difficulty is experienced due to plumbo-solvent action.

Permanent Chlorination Plants have been installed and are in continuous operation. The results of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination during the year were as follows:-

<u>Date taken.</u>	<u>Edgarley Supply.</u> (Low Level)	<u>10 Acre Supply.</u> (Intermediate Level)	<u>Tor Hill Supply.</u> (High Level)
1950.			
	<u>Coliform Bacilli per 100 ml.</u>		
Jany 3rd	0	0	-
31st	0	0	-
Feb 27th	0	0	-
Mar 27th	0	0	-
May 8th	0	0	-
Jun 5th	0	0	-
Jul 3rd	5	0	-
17th	5	-	-
31st	13	1	-
Aug 14th	7	-	-
28th	1	-	-
Scp 25th	0	0	-
Oct 23rd	0	0	-
Nov 22nd	0	0	0
Dec 4th	0	0	0
18th	0	0	0

Chemical Analysis. The results of the examination of a sample taken from the Wellhouse Spring on 2nd May 1950 were as follows:-

	All results in parts per 1,000,000.
Physical Characters.	Clear & bright.
Reaction.	Slightly alkaline pH 7.2
Total Solids.	490.0
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	357.5
Total Hardness.	350.0
Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride)	40.0
Nitrogen as Saline & free Ammonia.	0.104
" " Albuminoid.	0.044
" " Nitrates.	Nil.
" " Nitrites.	Nil.
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate. (4 hrs at 80° F)	Nil.
Free Carbon Dioxide.	22.0
Sediment.	None.

Extensions & Improvements during the year.

New water distribution system comprising Pumping Station at Edgarley Reservoir, Service Reservoir of 50,000 gallons capacity on Tor Hill T.W.L. 400' above O.D., Rising & Distribution mains to supply Windmillhill Housing Estate and other high parts of the Town between the Tor & Old Wells Road was completed & put into operation. Further distribution mains on Windmillhill Estate and a short main extension at Adhwell Lane were laid during the year. Delays in delivery of Machinery has resulted in very little progress being made with the Booster Plant to increase the pressure on the Low Level System.

Future proposals.

A scheme for supplying the Brindham & Wick areas under the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act 1944 at an estimated cost of £10,250 has been prepared & submitted to the Ministry of Health & The Somerset County Council. The Ministry of Health & The County Council were not prepared to make a grant under the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act but by arrangement with the Ministry of Health the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries allocated a provisional grant of £3,500 towards the cost of the scheme subject to tender. The Council did not consider this grant sufficient to justify the scheme going forward and it is understood that the Ministry of Agriculture might be prepared to reconsider the matter.

A comprehensive scheme prepared by the Wells Rural District Council for supplying parts of their District and in which the Glastonbury Borough Council has expressed interest in view of the fact that mains will pass through or near the Borough has been referred to the Council's Consulting Engineer for investigation & report.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Extensions & Improvements during the year.

No extensions or improvements were carried out during the year. Pipes were placed on order for the sewer extension at Wells Road referred to in my report for 1949.

Future proposals.

The Scheme for the proposed Sewage & Trade Waste Disposal Works at Beckery to deal with the Town Sewage & Trade effluents from the two factories nearby has been prepared & agreed by the fact ries in principle. Preparation of the detailed scheme for submission to the the Ministry of Health is in hand.

FOOD POISONING.

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred in the Borough during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care & attention.
No action was taken under this section during the year.

Section 50. Burial by Local Authority.
One case was dealt with under this section during 1950.

BYELAWS.

Byelaws for Handling, Wrapping & Delivery of Food & Sale of Food in the Open Air were made under Section 15 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 and came into operation on 17th July 1950.

A Byelaw concerning the Sale of Contraceptives was made & came into operation on 27th May 1950.

HOUSING.

(a) Provision of new houses in the Borough during 1950:-

	Erected & completed.		In course of erection.		Conversions or adaptations.
	Per- manent.	Tempor- ary.	Per- manent.	Tempor- ary.	
By Local Authority.	21	0	27	0	0
By Private Enterprise.	6	0	3	0	3
TOTALS.	27	0	30	0	3

() Total number of Post War Houses completed by:-

(a) Local Authority... .. 89
(b) Private Enterprise. 24

(b) Estimated Housing requirements at end of 1950:-

(1) To replace those unfit... .. 60
(2) To abate overcrowding.... .. 0
(3) Where conditions are unsatisfactory,
e.g. two or more families living in
one house, but not included in (1) or (2).. 116

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at end
of the year (incl out-district applicants)... .. 257

(c) General Observations:-

Since the War, up to the end of 1950 a total of 89 new dwellings have been completed by the Local Authority, 24 by Private Enterprise, and 13 units of accommodation have been provided by conversion or adaptation, making provision for 126 families in all.

Whilst this building has enabled cases of statutory overcrowding to be rehoused there are still many instances of bad overcrowding on bedroom standard and of more than one family living in small houses.

At the outbreak of the War there were known to be at least 60 houses which were fit only for demolition and nearly all of them remain occupied and while these houses cannot be demolished, except in a few cases where the Owners give an undertaking not to relet them for human habitation,

HOUSING (Contd)

they will continue to be occupied as they are readily re-let when families living in them are rehoused. There are still over 250 applicants on the waiting list and at the present rate of new building one cannot forecast a date by which time housing conditions in the Borough will have become reasonably satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

A summary of visits made and matters dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector during the year is appended.

I regret to report that on November 7th 1950 the Sanitary Inspector, Mr H.W.Hembury, was taken seriously ill and remained absent from duty during the remainder of the year.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

T.H.A.PINNIGER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF GLASTONBURY.

YEAR 1950.SANITARY INSPECTION.Visits & Inspections.

Housing and Sanitary defects.....	65
Drainwork & alterations to premises.....	103
Public Health Acts & Miscellaneous.....	105
Factories Act.....	5
Food & Drugs Act (Incl. Ice Cream premises).....	165
Milk & Dairies Orders.....	13
Rodent Control.....	28
River Pollution.....	8
Tents, Vans, & Sheds.....	4
Infectious Diseases.....	5
Re applications for housing accommodation.....	23
Requisitioned premises.....	7
Refuse Removal & Salvage.....	6
Vermin or Insect Infestations.....	11
Housing Estate Visits.....	51

599

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MATTERS DEALT WITH.

Number of complaints received.....	46
Choked drains cleared.....	15
Defective drains repaired.....	6
Existing houses connection to sewer.....	2
Inspection chambers constructed on existing drains.....	3
Existing water closets fitted with flushing cisterns.....	1
Water closets installed.....	7
Baths installed.....	5
Sinks installed.....	2
Premises disinfected after infectious disease.....	1
Water courses cleansed.....	1
Miscellaneous nuisances abated.....	8
Unfit houses closed on undertaking not to relet.....	1
Rats & Mice infestations dealt with. Private premises....	6
Refuse Tip.....	1
Sewage Works.....	1
Pumping Stations....	1
Sewer Tewt baiting..	1
Condemnations of unsound foodstuffs.....	19
Interviews with applicants for housing accommodation.Est.	250
Factories Act - additional Sanitary Conveniences.....	3
Samples of water taken for chemical analysis.....	1
Samples of water taken for Bacteriological examination...	33
Samples of sewage taken for Chemical analysis.....	1
Samples of Ice Cream taken for Bacteriological Examination.	95
Other Foodstuffs sent for analysis.....	2
Number of written informal requests issued.....	34
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	6
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.....	4

H.W. HEMBURY.

Sanitary Inspector.

